

Application No. 10/713,004  
 Amendment dated April 11, 2005  
 Reply to Office Action mailed January 11, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

In the Abstract of the Disclosure (page 21), please delete "Figure 1".

A marked-up version of the Abstract, illustrating the aforementioned amendment, is given below:

**Abstract of the disclosure**

The invention relates to a method for operating at least one low-pressure discharge lamp using an inverter (T1, T2), the occurrence of a rectifier effect in the at least one low-pressure discharge lamp (FL1, FL2) being monitored during the operation of the at least one low-pressure discharge lamp (FL1, FL2) in order to determine the end of its life. For the purpose of monitoring the rectifier effect of the at least one low-pressure discharge lamp (FL1, FL2), the electric power (P) fed into the inverter (T1, T2), the d.c. voltage drop ( $U_{dc1}$ ,  $U_{dc2}$ ) across the electric connections of the at least one low-pressure discharge lamp (FL1, FL2) and the r.m.s. value ( $U_{ac}$ ) of the a.c. voltage component of the running voltage of the at least one low-pressure discharge lamp (FL1, FL2) are evaluated.

~~Figure 1~~